

Daily Prayer

Edward the Confessor

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys—and remember Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066.

We begin by saying

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; that he may rule your people righteously, and the poor with justice.

Psalm 72.1-2

The First Reading

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands. Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court; and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands towards heaven. He said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant in steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart—you who have kept for your servant, my father David, what you promised to him. Indeed, you promised with your mouth and this day have fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant, my father David, that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children keep to their way, to walk in my law as you have

walked before me.” Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant David.

‘But will God indeed reside with mortals on earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! Have regard to your servant’s prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you. May your eyes be open day and night towards this house, the place where you promised to set your name, and may you heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. And hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray towards this place; may you hear from heaven your dwelling-place; hear and forgive.

2 Chronicles 6.12-21

The Psalm

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, ♦
that great is the glory of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; ♦
as for the proud, he regards them from afar. [R]

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you will preserve me; ♦
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my
enemies;
your right hand will save me.

The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; ♦
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
forsake not the work of your hands.

Psalm 138.5-8

The Gospel Reading

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.1-10

We continue with the reflection that follows. In silence, we ask what the reading has to say to us today. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?

The Reflection

Jim Boyles

I don't feel much enthusiasm for honouring a dead English king who lived a thousand years ago. He was likely a good man, a good ruler. He is credited with having a hand in founding Westminster Abbey. It's really remote though, and perhaps better restricted to receiving honour in his home country.

I know there are efforts now and again to update our church calendar that lists the saints and doctors and teachers and

missionaries that are given specific days. Most often, though, we simply add new ones, as the Canadian General Synod did in 1989, adding Molly Brant (April 16), and Charles Inglis (August 12), and three others. Hardly ever do we remove names.

Molly lived in the mid 1700s, a Mohawk in upper New York, who, during the American revolution, led her people to settle north to the Kingston area. She had married one of the English military commanders, and she had a hand in the founding of St. George's parish in Kingston, which later became the cathedral for the Diocese of Ontario.

Charles Inglis became the first bishop in the colonies, bishop of Nova Scotia, in 1787. He too, was a refugee from the American revolution, and led the church for 29 years, a crucial time in a diocese that spread as far west as one could go in the future Canada.

In 2004 there was another addition, Florence Li Tim Oi (February 26). She was the first woman ordained priest in the Anglican Church – by the bishop of Hong Kong in 1944. In retirement, she moved to Toronto, and died here in 1992.

Much more relevant to us than an ancient English king!

But the day brings us one more opportunity to read the beloved beatitudes from St. Matthew's gospel. Jesus is busy blessing just about everyone. We can find ourselves often in one of the categories of those blessed. We may be mourning, we may be feeling persecuted, we may feel poor in spirit. Yet, we are blessed.

To be blessed means that we are valued for who we are. A blessing is a sign of our value, and also a gift to us, helping us realize that we are accepted, that we are indeed a child of God. When we feel cast down, a blessing can lift us up, energize us, spur us on with our

life. Jesus blesses the many, in fact he blesses all who come to him seeking help, even those with skeptical minds. Our creator God is available to bless all humanity, all of God's creation.

A priest often at the end of a service will bless the congregation. They are really conveying God's blessing on us as we go out into the world. That's the traditional understanding of blessing. In another sense, we are all conveyors of blessing. As we visit the sick, or the lonely, or speak to a newly married couple, or in conversation with our neighbour, we are blessing them, often not with holy words, but with our smiles, our actions, our presence. Our stars today, a king, a lay woman, a bishop, a priest, were all conveyors of blessings, and in that sense, worthy models to be remembered and emulated.

How have we done recently in exercising our ministries of blessing?

When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle

The Canticle ~ A Song of Peace

*I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.*

'I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦
the Creator of Israel, your King.'

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦
a path in the mighty waters,

'Remember not the former things, ♦
nor consider the things of old.

'Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

'I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert, ♦
to give drink to my chosen people,
'The people whom I formed for myself, ♦
that they might declare my praise.'

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.*

Luke 1.46-55

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions)
and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

The Intercessions

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Our prayers conclude

O God,
you called your servant Edward the Confessor
to rule the English people in justice
and to endow your Church with works of beauty.
Mercifully grant that, following his example,
we may provide for the needs of the poor
and give shelter to the homeless and orphan;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

We conclude

Let us pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

Amen.

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